

Table of Content

Preface	5
Introduction	11
The purpose and structure of this book	11
Concepts of culture	12
Why study culture?	17
Cultural Studies and Kulturwissenschaften – two genealogies	19
Cultural Studies	19
Kulturwissenschaften	23
1. SIGNS	29
1.1 The use of signs as an anthropological basis	29
1.1.1 Language scepticism and ‘linguistic turn’ around 1900	31
1.1.2 The basic structure of the sign: aliquid stat pro aliquo	33
1.1.3 Functions of signs	35
1.2 Problems of communication in literature	39
1.3 Types of signs	42
1.3.1 Performative language	42
1.3.2 Three types of sign: symbolic, iconic, indexical	43
1.4 Language, culture and violence	48
Summary	53
2. MEDIA	55
2.1 Media as mediators?	55
2.1.1 Components of the compact concept of media	56
2.2 Oral and written	58
2.2.1 Arts of memory: forms of repetition and forms of storage	58
2.2.2 Oral poetry – written literature	59
2.2.3 Text as repeatable communication	61
2.2.4 Bearers of writing and book formats	63
2.3 Writing and authorship as reflected in media history	65
2.3.1 Stabilizing texts through writing and print	65
2.3.2 Weak authorship	67
2.3.3 Strong authorship	69
2.3.4 The death of the author and the triumph of writing	73
2.4 Text and image	75
2.4.1 The ‘iconic turn’ around 2000	77
	7

Table of Content

2.4.2 Images in the text	78
2.4.3 New Media	80
Summary	83
3. THE BODY	85
3.1 Body discourse	85
3.1.1 The hierarchy of the senses	87
3.2 Body, sexuality and gender	91
3.2.1 Body, soul, mind	91
3.2.2 Bodily taboos and excesses	93
3.2.3 Sexuality as a literary subject	95
3.2.4 Gender	99
3.3 Concepts of man – historical anthropology	99
3.3.1 The materiality of the body	100
3.3.2 Artificial and symbolic bodies	101
3.3.3 Body techniques, body histories, modes of conduct	103
3.3.4 Body writing	105
3.3.5 Incarnate and excarinate culture	108
3.4 Body stagings	110
Summary	111
4. TIME	113
4.1 Cultural bases for the experience of time	113
4.1.1 The ambivalence of time	113
4.1.2 Lifetime	115
4.1.3 ‘Cold’ and ‘hot’ cultures	118
4.1.4 Relations between generations	119
4.1.5 The acceleration of time	120
4.2 Literary stagings of the present	124
4.2.1 Fragmentation of perception	125
4.2.2 Apotheoses of the moment	126
4.2.3 Epiphanies	128
4.3 The nightmare of history	131
4.3.1 Transcending time: Eliot’s Four Quartets	132
4.3.2 In the time train	135
Summary	136
5. SPACE	139
5.1 London – the metropolitan labyrinth	141
5.1.1 London as a space of experience – Thomas De Quincey	142
5.1.2 The anonymous crowd in the city – John Gay, Edgar Allan Poe and Virginia Woolf	146

5.2 Centre and periphery – Frederick Jackson Turner and Joseph Conrad	149
5.2.1 Colonization, conquest, colonialism	149
5.2.2 Border and threshold – Frederick Jackson Turner’s myth of the ‘frontier’	151
5.2.3 The crisis of the Empire – Joseph Conrad’s <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (1902)	154
5.3 The mythical landscape – Leslie Marmon Silko’s <i>Ceremony</i> (1977) ..	160
Summary	164
6. MEMORY	167
6.1 Basic concepts of memory research	168
6.1.1 ‘Gedächtnis’ and ‘Erinnerung’	168
6.1.2 Active and passive memory	169
6.1.3 Episodic and semantic memory	170
6.1.4 Embodied and disembodied memory	172
6.1.5 Individual and collective memory	174
6.1.6 Trauma	175
6.2 Forms of memory in Shakespeare’s <i>Hamlet</i>	177
6.2.1 Historical memory – (incomplete) knowledge of the past	178
6.2.2 Remembering versus forgetting – grief and melancholy	179
6.2.3 Traumatic memory – the Ghost’s confusing messages	180
6.2.4 Semantic memory – mnemonics	183
6.2.5 Episodic memory – the lightning flash of a childhood memory	184
6.2.6 Memento Mori – the emblematic memory of death	185
6.2.7 Witness memory – ethics and therapy	186
Summary	189
7. IDENTITY	191
7.1 Individual identity	192
7.1.1 Person	192
7.1.2 Subject	194
7.1.3 Sex and Gender	198
7.1.4 Inclusive and exclusive identity	200
7.1.5 Doppelgänger and multiple identities	202
7.2 Collective identity – race, nation, culture	204
7.3 Contesting the canon – identity politics in the medium of literature	207
7.3.1 Caribbean experiences with the western canon – Jamaica Kincaid	208
7.4 Wanderers between cultures	210
7.4.1 Mary Antin	210

Table of Content

7.4.2 Joseph Conrad	211
7.4.3 Salman Rushdie	212
Summary	216
References	219
Index of Subjects	241
Index of Names	245